



Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DWECK et al.

Application Serial No.: 10/016,674

Filing Date: October 30, 2001

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
FACILITATING ACCESS TO
DOCUMENTS VIA ASSOCIATED
TAGS

) Group Art Unit: 2175
) Examiner: Chojnacki, Melissa M.
) **APPEAL BRIEF**
) Attorney Docket No.: G08.010
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

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Dated: April 13, 2005

By: 

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Applicants hereby submit an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision of the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed January 13, 2005 (the "Final Office Action") rejecting claims 26 and 38-52.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is assigned to GOLDMAN, SACHS & COMPANY, 85 Broad Street, New York, New York.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

No other appeals or interferences are known to Applicants, Applicants' legal representative, or assignee, which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-25, 27-37 and 53 have been canceled.

Claims 26 and 38-52 are being appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment subsequent to the Final Office Action is being filed concurrently herewith. The Amendment only cancels claims 37 and 53 to place the application in better condition for appeal.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed subject matter is directed to computer-implemented systems and methods that facilitate access to investment research documents. In particular, the claimed subject matter can facilitate an association of document tags with an investment research document, and those tags may then be used to access the document (*e.g.*, Specification at page 13, lines 21-27).

Initially, an investment research document and an indication of a first document "tag" are received from a content publisher. The first document tag is associated with first domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure (*e.g.*, FIG. 3). For example, the investment research

document might be an earnings report and the first document tag might indicate that the report is associated with a particular technology sector.

An associated tag for the document is then automatically determined based on a rule associated with the first document tag (*e.g.*, such as the rules illustrated in FIG. 9 or as described in the Specification at page 11, lines 22-28). The associated tag is within a second domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure. Note that at this point, the associated tag is not yet (and may never be) assigned to the investment research document.

An indication of the associated tag is then transmitted to the content publisher, and an indication of whether or not this associated tag is appropriate is received from the content publisher (*e.g.*, via a user interface such as the one illustrated in FIG. 6 that asks whether or not an associated tag of “technology” is appropriate).

A second document tag may then be assigned to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication (*e.g.*, Specification at page 13, lines 4 to 7). For example, if the content publisher indicates that “technology” is an appropriate tag for the investment research document, a second document tag will be assigned to document (whereas no second document tag may have been assigned to the document if he or she had indicated that the “technology” tag was not appropriate).

The investment research document may then be retrieved in accordance with the second document tag and at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement tag. The retrieved investment research document is then transmitted to a content reader via a communication network (*e.g.*, Specification at page 21, lines 1-8).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 26 and 38-52 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,266,682 (“LaMarca”) in view of US Patent No. 5,737,739 (“Shirley”) and further in view of US Patent No. 6,510,434 (“Anderson”).

ARGUMENT

It is Applicants' main contention that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, because at least some limitations of the claims are not taught or suggested by the prior art -- the LaMarca, Shirley, and Anderson references -- relied upon by the Examiner. Applicants rely on the authority of *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974), cited in MPEP § 2143.03 (entitled "All Claim Limitations Must Be Taught or Suggested"). Even if the teachings of LaMarca, Shirley, and Anderson are combined as proposed by the Examiner, the resulting system would lack some of the limitations recited in the independent claims. As will be seen, the missing limitations include (1) automatically determining an associated tag for a document based on a rule, and (2) receiving an indication indicating whether the associated tag is appropriate.

In addition, Applicants contend that the motivations provided in the Final Office Action to combine these references falls far short of making a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 26 and 38-52 Are Allowable Because the References do not Teach or Suggest "Automatically Determining an Associated Tag for the Document Based on a Rule Associated with the First Document Tag"

Claim 26 recites the step of "automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on a rule associated with the first document tag" (or substantially identical language). By way of example, the rule might indicate that an associated tag of "Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones" should be determined whenever the first document tag indicates that the company is a software company with yearly earnings of more than 100 million dollars.

None of the references disclose or suggest this element.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the statement in the Final Office Action that LaMarca does not disclose such an element (at page 5, first full paragraph).

Shirley discloses a knowledge base, including elements that are associated with multiple tags. Col. 3, lines 15-34. Some elements may be associated with query tags (e.g., a query tag might state "Is the toner low in the copy machine?") while others are associated with corrective action tags (e.g., a corrective action tag might state "Re-fill the toner to solve the problem.").

Cross-reference tags can also be provided to establish relationships between the query tags and the corrective action tags. In this way, the knowledge base can be used to provide a smart succession of queries to a repair person and then recommend an appropriate corrective action based on his or her responses.

The relationship between these elements is well illustrated in the left-hand portion of FIG. 2 of Shirley. The knowledge base 10 provides a Query (Q) to a repair person, who replies to the query with a Yes (Y) or No (N) answer. Based on the answer, another query can be provided to the repair person. In some cases, he or she is instructed to perform a Setup/Test (S/T) between queries. Finally, a Corrective Action (CA) is recommended to hopefully solve a problem.

According to the Final Office Action:

Shirley et al. teaches ... automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on a rule associated with the first document tag (See column 3, lines 15-23, where the “markup language tag” is read on “first document tag” and “query tag” is read on associated tag”.... (Final Office Action at page 5, last partial paragraph.)

Applicants respectfully disagree. The entire paragraph of Shirley cited in the Final Office Action is reproduced here for convenience:

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of authoring a knowledge base in a markup language, the knowledge base comprising a plurality of markup language elements, each element being identifiable by at least one markup language tag. A query tag is associated with each of a plurality of elements in the knowledge base to define query elements, each query element comprising a quantity of prose which instructs a user to make an observation about a physical system. A corrective action tag is associated with each of a plurality of elements in the knowledge base to define corrective action elements, each corrective action element comprising a quantity of prose which instructs a user to perform an action on a physical system. Cross-reference tags are provided to query elements and corrective action elements, to establish relationships among preselected query elements and corrective action elements, whereby each of the plurality of query elements is associated with at least two elements including either a corrective action element or another query element. (Shirley at col. 3, lines 15-33.)

Nowhere in Shirley is a tag automatically determined for a document based on a rule associated with a first document tag that was indicated by the content publisher. For example, when the designer of the knowledge base 10 indicates that a certain element should be assigned a corrective action tag, the system does not automatically suggest that a particular query tag or cross-reference tag should also be associated with that element.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner refuted this argument by stating:

Shirley et al., teaches a knowledge base comprising of at least mark-up tag and a query (second) tag associated with each document (See abstract....)¹

(Final Office Action at page 23, second full paragraph.) The entire abstract of Shirley, cited in the Final Office Action as supporting the Examiner's position, is reproduced here for convenience:

An expert system, such as could be used for service of a complicated physical device such as a printer or copier, exploits a knowledge base which is written in a markup language format such as SGML. The knowledge base comprises text which, if desired, can be printed out on paper to yield a traditional service manual. In addition to the typical formatting markup language tags surrounding the text of the knowledge base, hierarchical tags are provided in the electronic version of the knowledge base, to define a set of decision trees which can be accessed and navigated by an expert system. A diagnostic advisor can access specific elements of the knowledge base as needed to synthesize optimized diagnosis and repair procedures depending on an entry given by a tech rep servicing a machine. This arrangement thus supports both a printed service manual and a viewer that provides expert diagnostic advice. (Shirley, abstract.)

Applicants respectfully do not understand what in the abstract is being referenced to refute the fact that nowhere in Shirley is a tag automatically determined for a document based on a rule and another document tag that was indicated by the content publisher.

¹ In addition to the abstract, the Office Action cited col. 3, lines 15-28 of Shirley, which were set forth in previous excerpt.

Anderson discloses tags which are associated with records in a database, such as a telephone directory. The various ways that tags may be defined for a record are described at col. 11, lines 6-63. In no instance is a tag automatically determined for a record based on a rule and another tag that was assigned by a content publisher. Consider, for example, a person who adds a new record to a telephone directory and indicates that the record should be associated with a “restaurant” tag. Nothing in Anderson discloses that a tag from another domain can be automatically determined in response to that indication.

Nor is such a feature obvious in view of these references. In rejecting claims under 35 USC 103, the Examiner bears the initial burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 1532, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993). A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established by presenting evidence that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the claimed invention. See In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Although evidence can come from a range of sources, actual evidence is required and the showing must be clear and particular. See, e.g., C.R.Bard Inc. v. M3 Sys., Inc., 157 F.3d 1340, 1352, 48 USPQ2d 1225, 1232 (Fed. Cir. 1998), cert. denied, 119 S. Ct. 1804 (1999).

According to the Office Action, adding the teachings of Shirley to LaMarca would have been obvious because it would “allow the manufacturer/publisher to retain some advantages of making documentation freely available, while retaining a significant quantity of ‘value added’ features which can be exploited only the manufacturer/publisher itself (See Shirley et al., column 2, lines 37-52).” (Final Office Action at page 6, last full paragraph.) The entire paragraph of Shirley being relied on in the Final Office Action is reproduced here for convenience:

Yet another advantage is that, in many instances, it may be desirable to make the basic documentation, such as would be found on printed pages, publicly available either in printed form, or else through a public system such as the World Wide Web. At the same time, the proprietor of the documentation, namely the manufacturer of the product being serviced, may wish to retain control over certain information which is intertwined with the documentation. Such intertwined information may include statistical data as to which part of a large machine malfunctions most often, cost data for replacement parts, or an inventory of what parts tech reps carry in their vans. In this way, a manufacturer of a complex machine may retain some advantages of making documentation freely

available, while retaining a significant quantity of “value added” features which can be exploited only by the manufacturer itself. (Shirley at col. 2, lines 37-52.)

Nothing in this paragraph remotely suggests the claimed features that are at issue. While the motivations described in this portion of Shirley might lead a publisher to assign tags to documents (without disclosing those tags to third parties), it would in no way motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to create a system in which a tag is automatically determined for a document based on a rule as recited in claim 26.

The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, and not based on the Applicants’ disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). “To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed invention or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.” Ex parte Clapp, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). The fact that references can potentially be modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. MPEP 2143.01; Monarch Knitting Machinery Corp. v. Sulzer Morat GmbH, 45 USPQ 2d 1977, 1981-82 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (the question to be asked is “whether the prior art contains a suggestion or motivation to combine references”).

The absence of any motivation in the prior art (and the lack of a convincing line of reasoning) to automatically determine a tag for a document based on a rule associated with another tag that was assigned by a content publisher indicates that the Examiner has simply found a benefit discussed in one of the cited references and then applied that benefit to the current question (where it has no relevance). Because there is no teaching or suggestion to modify the references in this way, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

As a result, Applicants respectfully ask that the rejections of claim 26 and claims 38-48 dependent thereon be reversed. Claims 37 and 49-52 contain substantially identical limitations and those rejections should also be reversed.

Claims 26 and 38-52 Are Allowable Because the References Do No Teach or Suggest
“Transmitting an Indication of an Associated Tag, “Receiving an Indication ... Indicating
Whether the ... Associated Tag Is Appropriate,” and “Assigning a Second Document Tag ...
Based on the Associated Tag and the Received Indication”

As explained above, according to some embodiments an associated tag may be automatically determined for a document (e.g., an associated tag of “Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones” might be determined when a content publisher assigns a first document tag of “Company/West_Cost/Software/Microsoft” to a document).

Note that at this point, the associated tag is not yet (and might never be) associated with the document itself. Also note that the automatically determined tag might not really be applicable for a particular document. That is, a rule might select a tag that is does not apply to the content of a particular document.

To address such a situation, claim 26 recites “transmitting an indication of the associated tag to the content publisher.” For example, an email might be sent to the content publisher asking “Should this document be also associated with Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones?”

Moreover, claim 26 recites “receiving an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate.” For example, the content publisher might click on one Uniform Resource Locator (URL) link if he or she thought that the Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones tag was appropriate and another URL link if it was not.

In addition, claim 26 recites “assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication.” For example, the associated tag of “Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones” may become the second document tag associated with the document after it has been approved by the author. That is, the document would now be associated with both the first document tag (“Company/West_Cost/Software/Microsoft”) and the second document tag (“Analyst/Goldman_Sachs/Ms._Jones”). Both of these tags might then be used when a reader requests a certain type of document.

None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, disclose this approach as recited in claim 26.

As best understood, the Final Office Action attempts to combine various items of LaMarca, Shirley, and Anderson as follows:

From LaMarca (Final Office Action at page 4):

- transmitting an indication of [an] associated tag to the content publisher (citing LaMarca col. 2, lines 53-55); and
- receiving an indication from the content publisher (citing LaMarca col. 2, lines 53-55; col. 7, lines 44-45; and col. 15, lines 18-19).

From Anderson (Final Office Action at page 7):

- wherein the indication indicates whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate (citing Anderson col. 15, lines 9-12).

From Shirley (Final Office Action at page 5):

- assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication (citing Shirley col. 3, lines 15-33).

Taking these in turn, LaMarca does not disclose transmitting an indication of an associated tag to the content publisher. The portion of LaMarca cited in the Final Office Action states, in its entirety:

Existing file systems also support only a single model for storage and retrieval of documents. This means a document is retrieved in accordance with a structure or concepts given to it by its author. (LaMarca at col. 2, lines 53-55.)

While this might suggest that a content publisher (or “author”) assigns a tag to a document, it does not suggest transmitting an indication of an associated tag to the content publisher (which, as defined in claim 26, is a tag that was automatically determined based on a tag received from the content publisher and a rule).

Moreover, LaMarca and Anderson do not disclose “receiving an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag

is appropriate.” As best understood, the Final Office Action relies on LaMarca for the general idea that some generic information (which has nothing to do with whether or not an automatically determined tag is appropriate) can be received from a content publisher citing these sections (in addition to the section reproduced above):

A path tag is associated to the first document which identifies the first document. The path tag is then associated to the second document as a property representing a relationship to the first document. Both the first and second documents are retrievable by a single query based on the path tag. (LaMarca at col. 7, lines 44-49.)

associating the path tag with the first document as a property which identifies the first document. (LaMarca at col. 15, lines 18-19.)

The Final Office Action then relies on Anderson for the general idea that generic information (which is not received from a content publisher) can have something to do with whether or not a tag is appropriate citing this section:

An information request is parsed to identify the terms in the request. The terms are predetermined and generally correspond to the domains and categories of the index. The terms are mapped to tags. Once the appropriate tags are identified, then the metafiles that correspond to those tags are identified. The metafiles can be used to identify additional tags that are relevant to the search. (Anderson at col. 15, lines 9-14.)

This reasoning does not come close to disclosing “receiving an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate” as recited in claim 26.

The Final Office Action lastly cites this section of Shirley to provide the element of “assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication” (note that nothing in Shirley was relied on as disclosing a “received indication”):

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of authoring a knowledge base in a markup language, the knowledge base comprising a plurality of markup language elements, each element being identifiable by at least one

markup language tag. A query tag is associated with each of a plurality of elements in the knowledge base to define query elements, each query element comprising a quantity of prose which instructs a user to make an observation about a physical system. A corrective action tag is associated with each of a plurality of elements in the knowledge base to define corrective action elements, each corrective action element comprising a quantity of prose which instructs a user to perform an action on a physical system. Cross-reference tags are provided to query elements and corrective action elements, to establish relationships among preselected query elements and corrective action elements, whereby each of the plurality of query elements is associated with at least two elements including either a corrective action element or another query element. (Shirley at col. 3, lines 15-33.)

As best understood, the Final Office Action has simply ignored the fact that the “received indication” recited in claim 26 indicates “whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate” (and instead cites the general idea that generic information can be used to assign some sort of tag to a document).

Nor would such elements be obvious in view of these references. According to the Final Office Action, it would have been obvious to use the teachings of Anderson in a system cobbled together from LaMarca and Shirley in order to “focus the search on the most relevant information, perform the search in the most efficient manner and support searching multiple databases.” (Final Office Action, page 8). The first two reasons are far too vague to comprise a convincing line of reasoning as to why an artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references. With respect to the third reason, Applicants do not understand what it is about multiple databases that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in this manner.

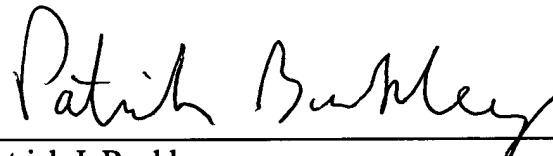
The Final Office Action also states that LaMarca “discloses the author assigning tags to his/her personal documents and is aware of all tags incorporated within his/her document because the have the opportunit to fix or change them at any time” (page 23, second to last full paragraph). Even if LarMarca discloses what the Examiner states, that would not render the elements recited in claim 26 obvious (e.g., “transmitting an indication of an associated tag, “receiving an indication ... indicating whether the ... associated tag is appropriate,” and “assigning a second document tag ... based on the associated tag and the received indication”).

As a result, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claim 26 and claims 38-48 dependent thereon be reversed. Claims 49-52 contain substantially identical limitations and those rejections should also be reversed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully suggest that rejections of claims 26 and 38-52 are improper and request that the rejections be reversed. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A - Claims
Appendix B - Evidence
Appendix C - Related Proceedings

APPENDIX A - CLAIMS

This is a complete copy of the claims involved in the appeal:

26. A computer-implemented method of facilitating access to investment research documents, comprising:

receiving an investment research document from a content publisher;

receiving an indication of a first document tag from the content publisher, wherein the first document tag is associated with first domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on a rule associated with the first document tag, wherein the associated tag is associated with a second domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

transmitting an indication of the associated tag to the content publisher;

receiving an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate;

assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication;

retrieving the investment research document in accordance with the second document tag and at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement tag; and

transmitting the retrieved investment research document to a content reader via a communication network.

38. The method of claim 26, wherein the received indication is associated with an acceptance by the content publisher of the automatically determined associated tag.

39. The method of claim 26, wherein the second document tag comprises the automatically determined associated tag.

40. The method of claim 26, wherein the investment research document comprises at least one of: (i) text information, (ii) image information, (iii) audio information, and (iv) executable information.

41. The method of claim 26, wherein the communication network comprises at least one of: (i) the Internet, (ii) an intranet, (iii) a public network, (iv) a public switched telephone network, (v) a proprietary network, (v) a wireless network, and (vi) a local area network.

42. The method of claim 26, wherein the investment research comprises at least one of: (i) financial information, (ii) financial news, (iii) information about financial events, (iv) investment information, and (v) market information.

43. The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the tags is associated with at least one of: (i) an author, (ii) a date, and (iii) an information type.

44. The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the tags is associated with at least one of: (i) a sector, (ii) an industry, (iii) a research type, (iv) a company, (v) an issuer, (vi) a region, (vii) a country, (viii) an investment product, (ix) a security instrument, (x) a third-party rating, (xi) a research analyst, (xii) a strategist, (xiii) an event type, (xiv) a subject, (xv) an investment style, (xvi) a market cap, (xvii) a document type, (xviii) an information value, and (xix) a currency.

45. The method of claim 26, wherein the first document tag comprises at least one of: (i) a primary tag, and (ii) a secondary tag.

46. The method of claim 26, wherein the rule is associated with at least one of: (i) a start date, (ii) an end date, (iii) antecedent tags, (iv) descendant tags, and (v) sibling tags.

47. The method of claim 26, wherein investment research document are received from a plurality of content publishers.

48. The method of claim 26, wherein said transmitting is performed via at least one of: (i) a content controller, (ii) a content reader, (iii) a personal computer, (iv) a server, (v) a portable computing device, (vi) a telephone, (vii) a Web site, and (viii) an electronic mail message.

49. An apparatus, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device in communication with said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

receive an investment research document from a content publisher;

receive an indication of a first document tag from the content publisher, wherein the first document tag is associated with first domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

automatically determine an associated tag for the document based on a rule associated with the first document tag, wherein the associated tag is associated with a second domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

transmit an indication of the associated tag to the content publisher;

receive an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate;

assign a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication;

retrieve the investment research document in accordance with the second document tag and at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement tag; and

transmit the retrieved investment research document to a content reader via a communication network.

50. The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said storage device further stores at least one of: (i) a tag database, (ii) a document database, and (iii) a tag association database.

51. The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:
a communication device coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one of: (i) a content publisher, (ii) a document storage device, (iii) a content controller, (iv) a content reader, and (v) a payment service.

52. A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method of facilitating access to documents, said method comprising:

receiving an investment research document from a content publisher;

receiving an indication of a first document tag from the content publisher, wherein the first document tag is associated with first domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on a rule associated with the first document tag, wherein the associated tag is associated with a second domain having a single-rooted, hierarchical data structure;

transmitting an indication of the associated tag to the content publisher;

receiving an indication from the content publisher, the indication indicating whether the automatically determined associated tag is appropriate;

assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on the associated tag and the received indication;

retrieving the investment research document in accordance with the second document tag and at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement tag; and

transmitting the retrieved investment research document to a content reader via a communication network.



APPENDIX B - EVIDENCE

No evidence is being submitted with this Appeal Brief (*i.e.*, this appendix is empty).



APPENDIX C - RELATED PROCEEDINGS

No other appeals or interferences are known to Applicants or Applicants' legal representative which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal. Therefore, there are no copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board to attach (*i.e.*, this appendix is empty).